

the gas bank area and near the tea stalls to keep the area clean and to ensure high standard of hygiene.

(c) Instructions have been issued to conduct frequent inspections at different levels to ensure high standard of cleanliness and hygiene in catering premises.

Merger of Railways and General Budgets

324. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to dispense with the system of a separate Budget being presented by the Railways and merge it with the General Budget; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposed merger is likely to take effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

US aid for upgrading Railway System

325. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have drafted a Plan to upgrade its system and for this purpose U.S. aid has been sought;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) Modernisation and upgradation of the Railways is a continuous and need-based exercise which takes into account the availability of resources and the requirements of the System for ensuring better services and safety standards.